



The Mulford Gardener

Presented By The Mulford Gardens Improvement Association

M.G.I.A. Volume XXXIV No. 5 May 2011

General Meeting – May 31, 2011 07:30pm

M.G.I.A CLUBHOUSE 13055 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, 94577 - mgia@live.com -

www.mulfordgardens.org

Nautical+ Swap Meet – details inside

President's Message:

Hello Mulford Gardens and Gardener readers. I want to start off by thanking the MGIA for putting me in the President's seat for the next year. I have held many different positions and served different types of groups in the past; none of them with the title of President. I am honored with this position. Thank you MGIA, I hope to serve you well.

One of the main challenges I see MGIA has is that our organization needs many more active members. For the cost of a small Latte' from Starbucks you can join and be a member of one of the best homeowners associations in the East Bay. "But what (you may ask) is in it for me? Why should I join? That's a good question. Maybe you will find an answer here.

1. Join us to be a part of an activist community. The Mulford Gardens Improvement Association as I have experienced over the past two years living here, has a loud voice which speaks to the needs of the area. Our little group jumps at the challenge to take on city hall when we need to. We have some long time members who have pushed back the bureaucracy when they wanted to build a bridge across the bay and anchor one end of it in Mulford Gardens. Many homes would have become eminent domain, leveled flat, and filled with asphalt. "Saving the Marina" is the current battle cry. Check out www.savethemarina.com. This is one of the toughest challenges to date. There is coming soon a city sponsored developer whose intent is to plow down and remove the San Leandro Marina and replace it with office buildings, a parking garage, and a convention center. The Marina is in danger of becoming a mud filled swamp.

2. Join us to be the 'Happy Place' in San Leandro. Mulford Gardens, because of all of its amenities and features like premium golf courses with a driving range, a 400 berth Marina with a huge Shoreline Park, including restaurants and a hotel, a shooting range, a shopping center and many large industries, is a final destination for many active people in San Leandro. The sunsets at the Marina can be breathtaking. There is much to do in Mulford Gardens. Our association represents to San Leandro a community who wants to keep recreation available to all who want it.

3. Join us to be up to date on the neighborhood and San Leandro. Our monthly meetings most always have community and business leaders who share with our members about their intentions, goals and how they can benefit the community. During the last election season we had the Mayoral and city council candidates discuss with us their positions and what they can do for Mulford Gardens. We keep abreast of Waste Management's projects, Airport news, etc.

4. Join us to be part of a group who sponsors college scholarships. We have made hundreds of dollars available to worthy students to make their college effort a bit more effective in a time when most students go without.

The best reason to join us is that Mulford Gardens is a part of a wonderful neighborhood. We have a wonderful park with a newly renovated clubhouse complete with kitchen, bathrooms and a well lit meeting room. There is a playground and Bar-B-Q 'pit'. Many communities would love to have such a place to celebrate their birthdays, baptisms and bar mitzvahs. We plan to have "Movies at Mulford" this summer Bring a blanket and the kids. We have the popcorn and the movie. Stay tuned for further details by visiting www.mulfordgardens.org. It will be a lot of fun. Join us. It's easy. We'd love to see you.

Sincerely, Steve Modifer, President, MGIA

INTRODUCING THE MULFORD GARDENS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations were made and elections were held at the April 2011 MGIA General Meeting. A new President was elected. We want to welcome Mr. Steve Modifer to the position. Former Board President, Chuck Porri will continue as an active Board Member concentrating on the Building and Grounds Maintenance and Improvement around the Club House. Thank you, Chuck, for your continued dedication. Bo Johansen, former Board President, has accepted the position of Board Secretary, replacing Michelle Selgelke who will remain an active member of the Board. We thank our other officers and board members for their dedication to your Association and Neighborhood: Janet Porri Earl and Rae Vasconcellos, Audrey Albers, Alison Modifer and Jean Morris.



Nautical+ Swap Meet

June 10, 11, 12

Friday June 10	10:00a – 04:00p
Saturday June 11	09:00a to 03:00p
Sunday, June 12	10:00a to 02:00p

The San Leandro Marina and MGIA are hosting a great swap meet of very unique treasures for three days. This is a great opportunity to come down and buy anything from sails, engine parts, antiques, pumps, hoses, interior from a 1939 Vinyard Sedan that many of you may have seen at the Marina for years, very different furniture, air compressor, fishing rods and gear, tools, motorcycle parts, and tons of other good stuff that will take three days to look it all over. More will be added as the swap meet gets closer.

If you have some very unique pieces, call. 459-7797 and we'll see what arrangements can be made.

You can also bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the park- we GUARANTEE the weather will be better. There will be plenty of time to discuss the Marina future, fishing in the area and whatever else comes to mind.

C'mon down for a very enjoyable time. For more information, go online to efmoody.com/mulford.html or call Errold Moody at 510 459 7797.



The Worker's Skid Shack or Treasures in the Back Yard

Life on the Farm - Rae Vasconcellos, MGIA Board

When we moved to Mulford Gardens in 1939-40, the property was billed as a state-of-the art self-sustaining farm. The developer who divided up parcels and sold them at the time, had the idea that if you put in a house, and then built out proper buildings for different animals and fowl, provided space for fruit trees and vegetables, that a family could make a sustainable way of life work for themselves and maybe make some money on the side. As far as I know, the land under this plan extended south from what is now Marina Boulevard (then First Avenue) to West Ave 135th. So, when we moved in, there were homes built in checkered patterns over the landscape and large open spaces waiting for new owners. You would look south, and see open fields stretching out forever beyond the then boundaries of Mulford Gardens. Not too many homes, but enough to look like a small village. Many of the homes had the Tudor touches of the 30's, stucco with steeper pitched roofs, or smaller cottage like homes, or a touch of bungalow typical of the period. In our case, and the neighbor directly behind, there were two different style homes, but each had a generous building to raise chickens in large numbers if that was your choice, pens for rabbits, and a yard for a cow. Our property even had a barn for a mule- the mode of plowing the field in those days. Gas and electricity lines were run out to the large chicken house, and also supplied power for a well. that was dug to a depth of 25 Ft. The well was supplied by a broad underground flume of water tracing its way from the foothills to the Bay. The water was sparkling, clear and cold, a gift of the period, before gasoline stations and other polluters began filling properties in the upper areas at the base of the foothills. Even today, the particular flume that serves our farm is relatively clean and usable for growing vegetables, a gift indeed, since having to use public utility water would be extremely expensive.

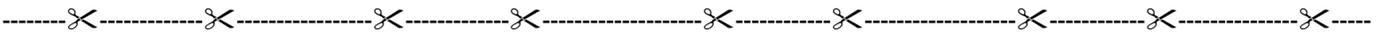
One of the intriguing buildings on the property was a slant roofed small structure located within 25 ft of the back door, next to the detached garage. It consisted of two rooms and was electrified with overhead wires from the house, and had its own gas line. The first room was empty when my family moved in, and was converted to a work shop by my Dad. The back room was home to a large concrete wash sink, divided in two parts and had an adjacent gas outlet attached to a small two burner stove vented out the side of the building.. There was a built-in cabinet with three sections for storing things. Small wood slider windows looked out onto the fruit trees and gardens and the space next to the garage. This space, my parents were told, is where all the canning and preparation of fruits, vegetables and other items from the farm,(not to be described here), took place. It became a "wash house" for my parents, as well as a good place to clean up before coming into the house, and washing vegetables. It also served as a grand giant "play house" for me. There was a great old Victrola in the backroom that had endless possibilities when coupled with dolls and other imaginary friends. We never questioned the origins of the building, its rooms were covered in a material that would be the heavy cardboard predecessor to sheetrock used today. Its timbers were light redwood and the outer walls constructed of 1x 4 inch tongue and grove pine. It was topped with a tar and asphalt rolled roofing roof. There was a thin veneer of early period Congoleum Nair, a type of what we now call linoleum on the floors. We assumed the building must have been constructed along with other amenities on the property. However, a few years later, we found this was not the case.

One summer day, a visitor came to see the farm, and looked at this building and marveled that we had such a structure on the property. Of course, there was curiosity all round. Just what was this building about? Why was it so special? Well, what a surprise! He walked through it, and looked at it thoroughly all the while chuckling to himself in disbelief. "This old building is a field workers shack. It's probably been dragged in here by mules and jacked up for a small pier foundation" To say the least, my parents were amazed at this piece of information. - A field workers shack?

The visitor went on to talk about the history of the verdant fields of the area, and how, in the very early days of working crops and harvesting, the workers of the fields would have these two- roomed "houses on skids" that were pulled around by teams of mules. As the crop work moved, so did the house. It provided shelter for sleeping space,, cooking and a place to keep personal things for the men who were involved in tending crops during the growing and harvesting months. Clearly, when this "skid shack" was moved onto the property, it was retrofitted with electricity and gas. The earlier conveniences were provided by lantern or an item like the small two burner stove. A genuine piece of history, right in our backyard! Definitely what a surprise! It added to our picture of what the fields would have been like, and peopled them with the workers and the presence of this type of shelter for them as they worked.

To this day, I think about the people that must have been in our "shop" as we call it now. The cardboard walls still partially exist; parts of the linoleum are still to be seen, in the shop portion. It is easy to imagine the flicker of lantern light, fatigued men slipping under their blankets, gathering energy for the next day of hard work Opening the slide windows for currents of cool air to filter in over a simple meal. I look out the windows to the trees, and imagine the large fields and their bountiful crops along with the heat of the day, or chill of the spring.

Now, large corporate farmers may have permanent worker housing located near to their operations. In the 1970's and '80's, there was a concerted effort to create affordable housing for migrant workers to assist them in making a decent living for their families. We have come a long way from the "skid shack" and hopefully conditions are much better for these hard working field workers of today. The skid house served its purpose, however minimal, for shelter and rest. We look at it as a tribute to the stamina of these men and their contribution to the beautiful fields that surrounded Mulford Gardens in those early years. If only its walls could tell us the stories.



Clip and mail in with your \$3.00 annual membership dues. (Please make check payable to M.G.I.A.)

Mail to: Mrs. Janet Porrill, Treasurer, 1966 Arctic St., San Leandro CA. 94577. (510-352-6258)
 Name _____ Phone _____ email: _____

Address _____ Homeowner _____ Renter _____

Your membership dues are tax deductible. Donations to the M.G.I.A. Scholarship Fund are also appreciated.

MGIA Board 2011-2012

Steve Modifer	President
Earl Vasconcellos	Vice President
Rae Vasconcellos	Treasurer
Bo Johansen	Secretary
Janet Porrill	Financial Secretary
Jean Morris	Gardeneer Editor
Audrey Albers	Michelle Selgelke
Alison Modifer	Web Design

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M.G.I.A. General Meeting: Tuesday, May 31, 2011
Last Tuesday of each Month **Door Prize Drawing!**

Advertising information: Call Janet Porrill
510-352-6258

LOCAL CHURCHES IN SAN LEANDRO
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
2500 Bermuda Ave., 510-483-731

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
13901 Bancroft Ave., 510-357-9192

Life Change Baptist Church
13067 Aurora Drive., 925-755-8710

Faith United Methodist Church
788 Lewelling Blvd., 510-357-5484

PUBLIC MEETINGS

San Leandro City Council:
1ST & 3RD Mondays/each month
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 835 E. 14th St



Mayor Stephen Cassidy

Michael Gregory, Dist. 1	Ursula Reed, Dist. 2
Diana Souza, Dist. 3	Joyce Starosciak, Dist. 4
Pauline Russo Cutter, Dist. 5	Jim Prola, Dist. 6

Board of Zoning (BZA) 1st & 3rd Thursdays / each month
City Council Chambers, City Hall

San Leandro School Board:
1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall



MGIA Club House Rentals
Bo Johansen 510-206-4249

Are you looking for a quaint, clean place for your Bridge/Card Club, Garden Club, Exercise group or Bunko Group Meetings? Our Club House is available for daily rentals as well as weekend/evenings. Call Bo Johansen for information on rentals: 510-206-4249.

Share your news, ideas, recipes, comments, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, parties, awards, special events and we will make every effort to print it. Email to: mgia@live.com or mail to MGIA, P O. Box 4235, San Leandro CA 94579 or call Jean Morris (510-495-4480) with your news!

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Baby Shower at the MGIA Clubhouse!
– Hosted by Joyce & Bo Johansen for their daughter, Amanda, on Saturday, May 21.

Congratulations!



Bridal Shower at the MGIA Clubhouse

Maid of Honor, Christina Marie Morris is hosting a Bridal Shower on Saturday, May 28, 2011 for Dawn-Marie Morris at the MGIA Club House. A “Honeymoon in Hawaii” is the theme for the shower.

Dawn-Marie is the daughter of Jean & Gary Morris of West Avenue 136 and is a former recipient of the MGIA Scholarship and graduate of San Leandro High. Dawn-Marie graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Marketing and is currently working in San Francisco.

Dawn-Marie is engaged to Stefan Meisner, also of San Leandro. A wedding at the Berkeley City Club is planned for Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 03:00pm.

MGIA Board sends their Congratulations Dawn-Marie & Stefan!!